

Sinclair Broadcasting Group is abusing its privilege of using the public's airwaves at no cost by forcing its stations to run an anti-Kerry documentary just in advance of the election. Instead of serving the public interest as it is obliged to do by law, it is providing a free in-kind political donation to the Bush-Cheney campaign. If it airs this anti-Kerry documentary, it should be forced to provide airtime for an anti-Bush or pro-Kerry documentary (such as Going Upriver) as well.

Moreover, this action presents a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Control of the airwaves by large media conglomerates results in an excessive focus on the bottom line at the expense of substantive localized news content and the public's overall best interests.

Sinclair Broadcasting Group's demonstrate the necessity of strengthening rather than weakening media ownership rules. Please ensure that in the future the license renewal process is more than simply perfunctory. Thank you for your consideration.